

January 2014

Smokejumper Obituary: McCutchen, Henry (Missoula 1965)

National Smokejumper Association

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Recommended Citation

National Smokejumper Association, "Smokejumper Obituary: McCutchen, Henry (Missoula 1965)" (2014).
Smokejumper Obituaries. 762.
https://dc.ewu.edu/smokejumper_bios/762

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Smokejumper Obituary

McCutchen, Henry (Missoula 1965)

Hank, 76, died Jan. 3, 2014, in Fort Collins, Colorado, after a brief battle with cancer.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Oklahoma State University, a master's degree in Biology from Montana State University and a doctorate in Biology from Colorado State University.

Hank worked for nearly 40 years as a ranger, management biologist and as a research scientist for the National Park Service, as well as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service.

Hank jumped at Missoula during the 1965 season, later serving on the staff of a regional fire incident command team.

As a research scientist, his major interest was in the assessment and restoration of large animal populations in the national parks. Hank lived and worked in a number of national parks including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Zion, Prince William Forest and Rocky Mountain. He retired from Joshua Tree National Park in 2004.

In the parks he conducted research on mountain sheep, elk, pronghorn antelope, black bears and grizzly bears. He specialized in their capture, marking and radio-collaring for subsequent population and ecological research.

In addition to assignments in the National Parks he was stationed at Colorado State University and at Northern Arizona University as a federal research scientist and coordinator with faculty adjunct appointments. He also served for several years as the regional ecologist and consultant for 41 national parks of a six-state region in Denver.

(end of excerpt)